The Rez Sisters Worksheet

1. Reflect on the importance of the character (spirit?) not seen by all the characters but seen by only one or a few of the characters and discuss that character’s importance to the dramatic action and the development of the plot.

Nanabush is the character that comes in different appearances throughout the play and gives some depth to the messages that is told by the spirit. Nanabush does not have dialog throughout the play, but he is there to symbolize something. Not everyone in the play see this character to make the audience think that this character is not there in reality and the characters who see this character are out of their reality. Marie Adele sees him at the end of the bingo game as the bingo master, and the next thing the audience knows is that Marie Adele is dead. This gives an idea that Nanabush symbolizes death. The character being visible to Zhaboonigan made her reveal her tragic experience. The audience may think that he is a patron of redemption and revelation. This character reminds the audience of the tribal traditions of the native Americans.

2. Compare the aspirations and socio-economic level of the characters in this play with those in Wedding Band, Queen's Garden, and Real Women.

All of these plays has their themes surrounded at the issues that occur against gender and race equality. The protagonist female in wedding band favors the ones who accepts her equally no matter what her gender and race is, as Emily tries to do in this play. In Queen’s garden and Real women have curves, the main characters want to achieve a better socioeconomic status to fend off the gender inequalities they experience. In Rez sisters, the women are thinking to get the things that would give them a higher socioeconomic status, once they win the bingo. Ambitions are expressed by women in the play to take over the roles of men, such the role of the city’s chief. The main theme in all these plays is the issues caused by gender inequalities.

3. Compare the role of women and the depiction of men in this play with that in Real Women Have Curves

In both plays, there is no appearance of the male characters. The audience seek the information about the men from the descriptions said by the women in the play. Men are presented as dirty and will use a woman for sex. In both plays women, the women know that men are overpowering them and trying to get over this suppression.

In real women have curves, the older generation females think that a woman must maintain an attractive figure to keep the men to love her.

In The Rez Sisters, the only man who does an appearance is the Nanabush who comes in different appearances throughout the play. Every man in the play are bad characters except for Raymond, who seems lovely to her lady as of the women’s descriptions. Big Joey is most frequently heard male character in this play, and he is depicted as a huge guy who does not mind who he is sleeping with. Another event described in the play to depict men as animalistic is the experience of Zhaboonigan when she was raped.

There isn’t much appearance of men in both the plays, but they seem to influence what was happening throughout the play.